

County Conservation News

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Hats off to H.A.T.S.

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On July 6, the green team held their monthly meeting at an unusual place...a HATS (Helena Area Transit Service) bus! 4 members of the green team got on the curb to curb bus at the stop on Fuller St. in front of the Blue Cross Blue Shield building and rode it to the new HATS facility located on Montana Ave.

Upon arrival at the HATS facility, facility supervisor Ed Robinson gave the Green Team a tour of the new facility. The facility now consists of two buildings, one that contains the offices, dispatch and waiting room and the other for bus storage and maintenance. The facility has been designed to use green technology wherever possible. For example, the bus wash bay uses fresh water for the final rinse of the bus, collects it and reuses it as the wash water for the next cycle. Another green design feature is in-floor radiant, the warmth stays in the lower part of the building where the workers are, and doesn't heat the area above the work zone.

HATS offers 2 types of service to residents in and around Helena. Curb to Curb is a pick up and drop off service that you can reserve at least 24 hours or more in advance. Like it sounds, the HATS bus will pick you up at the curb closest to your location, and drop you off at the curb closest to your destination. Checkpoint service is a scheduled bus that departs every hour from the HATS station on N. Montana Ave and makes 19 stops on a circuitous route around Helena stopping at places like Wal-Mart, Target, Good Samaritan, and the Base Camp amongst other places. All buses in the fleet are handicapped accessible with up to 3 spots for wheelchairs on each bus. Additionally all of the checkpoint busses have bike racks; the rider is responsible to get his or her bike on and off the rack. A

full fare is just \$1.50 one way; seniors get a fare discount and pay just .85¢

HATS is also a Rimrock Stages stop with buses arriving and leaving during the 1 PM hour daily. Ed estimates that 50-75 people daily use the Rimrock service. In conjunction with the opening of the new HATS facility Rimrock created a hub in Helena for both east/west and north/south routes. They have added a scheduled run between Great Falls and Helena, as well as rerouted a Billings to Missoula bus to come through Helena making it easier than ever to travel the state by bus. HATS also offers express package shipping through Rimrock. HATS receives approximately 15% of revenues generated by Rimrock at the Helena station.

You can find out more information about HATS and the areas serviced by visiting: <http://www.ci.helena.mt.us/departments/public-works/helena-area-transportation.html>
To find out more about Rimrock go to: <http://www.rimrocktrailways.com/>



**HATS Curb to Curb Bus
with Bike Rack**



**HATS Checkpoint bus going through
the Bus Wash. The bus wash uses re-
cycled water.**

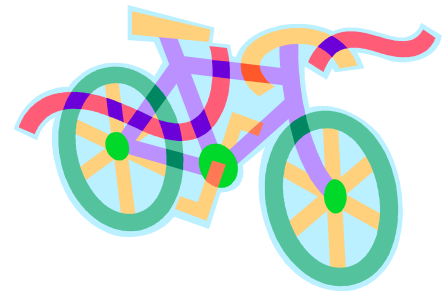
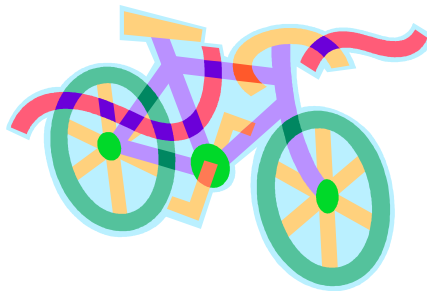
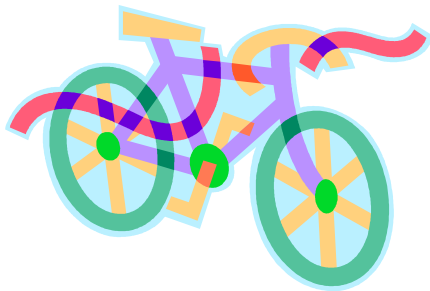
Bike Workshop Coming to Helena

On Wednesday August 10th, the Green Team is joining with Safe Routes to School/Journeys from Home to sponsor a Community Bicycling Workshop with Mighk Wilson. The workshop will include a morning community bike ride at 9:00 AM, and an evening presentation (Place

TBD) to review what Helena's current bicycling amenities, and provide a vision to the community and its leaders of what a bike friendly Helena could look like. The community ride will be at a leisurely pace, with several stops to discuss what works, what could be im-

proved, and what actions could be taken to create a more bike friendly atmosphere.

Put August 10th on your calendar and come join members of the green team on the community ride and give your input for a bicycle friendly Helena!



The Lewis and Clark County

Green Team

The Green Team was established in April, 2010. It is comprised of 10 Lewis and Clark County employees. Their missions is to promote sustainability and stewardship of environmental resources in daily government practices to save money and reduce the environmental impacts of county operations.